

T H E 2
N A R R A T I V E
A N D
C A S E
O F
Simson Tonge, Gent.
TE B E I N G

A true Account delivered upon Oath before Mr. Justice *Bridgeman*, in the presence of Dr. *Tytus Oates*, relating to Capt. *Sam. Ely*, *Mounfier Chouenx*, &c. and my self, who would have induced me to swear that my Father and Dr. *Oates*, were the Contrivers of the Horrid Popish Plot, with other material Passages omitted in the Affidavit, together with some short Reflections upon Mr. *L'estranges* Dialogue between Z E K I E L and E P H R A I M.

H U M B L Y

Tendred to the Consideration of the Honourable House of Commons.

Publisht for the Satisfaction of all True Protestants.

L O N D O N ,

Printed for *Langly Curtis*, 1681.

I Do Appoint *Langly Curtis* to Print this my
Narrative and Case, Witness my Hand this se-
cond of *February*, 1681,



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To the Candid

READER.

Being ordered to come to my Tryal this last Term, but finding it to be deferred for some longer time, is the reason why I have publischt my Case, being informed that some of those Persons with whom I was concerned are gone, particularly Mr. *L'estrangle*, and likewise that Captain *Ely* has absented himself, who is one of the principal Abettors in my Busines, and therefore is particularly mentioned with me, in the Information which is fil'd against me on the Crown Side.

An other Reason which induced me to Print my Case is, that though very few do understand it, yet every one thinks himself a competent Judge, and with a clamorous Noise (common to the Rabble especially,) exclaiming against me, because my Father is concerned in this Affair; which therefore in all Persons Opinions renders me the more contemptible, I must lay my Hand on my Mouth, and confess, it is a thing very unnatural, and contrary to the Laws of God and Nature, which the very Heathens did abhor, that a Son should seek to ruine his own Parent, who gave him being; Being a Crime of a very black and deformed Aspect, but hearing that it is commonly reported, that I should swear against my Father to take away his Life, it is as False as God is True, who ever was the Author of that lying Rumor; and though my Information upon which I was committed to *Newgate*, was drawn up in these Words, For high Misdemeanours, and indeavouring by false Accusations, and Sabonation of Perjury to defame the Kings Evidence, and all the Prosecution of the Popish Plot: Yet no such thing as Perjury can be proved against me, as I hope will apparently appear, by the perusal of these Sheets, in the case of *L'Estrange*, who would willingly have worn me to the Objections I drew up against the Plot; But I would not consent to it: But the great Reason why I was prevailed upon to write those Objections was this, that *Ely* having a very wheedling and cunning Tongue, and finding me all along very tender of my Fathers Safety, (a Duty incumbent on all Children) and when ever I mentioned him, with many deep Oaths, and solemn Alseverations assured me, that my Father should not receive any the least Dam'nage by what I did; and to use his own Expression (which I have heard him more than once Repeat) that a hair of his Head should not be hurt, this was the Argument which ingulph't me in this Labyrinth and Pit of Trouble; and though I do not desire to palliate my Crime, yet I hope this Information will give some Satisfaction to all such Persons as have had no true account of it; that as it is my great Trouble, so it has been my Misfortune, to fall into the Hands of wicked Persons, who through their Delusions and Instigations, did perswade me to ruine not only my self, but (that which is more deplorable) likewise my innocent Relations; and this according to their Logick, under the specious Title of undeceiving the Kingdom, as to the truth of the Plot; and whilst that I am confin'd to a Prison (which is a kind of a living Death) I hope the Truth will be sought into; that those who have been my Abettors, will not be suffered to escape unpunish't, having made an ingenuous and full Confession, desirous ever since I was first summon'd to appear before the Council, to discover the Truth; whom I have here displayed in her naked Simplicity, without the affectation of good Language, or the flourishes of Rhetorick; being likewise very conscientious in the Relation; which I do not question will be very acceptable to all Persons who love upright and plain dealing: and though an indelible Character may be branded on me, for being so undutiful to my Father; Yet I make no doubt that when my Case is weighed in the impartial Ballance of an unbiast Judgment,

(though I do not expect to acquit my self from being culpable) yet I say I do not despair, but those very Persons who have most accused me, will pass more favourable Censures, on my impious undertaking against the Kings Evidence, and though I may be condemn'd for a great Villain, yet withal they will commiserate my Condition, for hark'ning to such evil Councillors: for as that Wit is accounted best which is dear bought, so it will make me more careful for the future, to hearken to the like Advice; who have sadly found that Maxime true, *Qua supra nos, nihil ad nos,* for young men as they are too soon prevailed upon to act those things which often prove very prejudicial to them, and their Friends, for want of Judgment, and through inadvertency, being wholly unexperienced as to the things of this World; so when they imbrace good Counsel, and leave off those ways, it merits Commendation: for it is the pursuit of an evil Action, which aggravates the Crime, and renders it the more odious, which Fault must be left to the Law to determine; for where I am guilty, as it will be to no purpose to make any Apology for my self; so where I am innocent my own Conscience will acquit me from the malevolent Re-proaches of evil Men.

*Da veniam subitis, non displicuisse mereitur,
Festinat Patria qui placuisse sue.*

Kings Bench December, 13. 1681.

L' Estranges Case coming to my Hands, which he calls a civil Dialogue betwixt Zekil and Ebrain; and finding several palpable Lyes in it, which he endeavours to throw upon the World relating to my Busyness; I thought I was bound in Conscience to vindicate my self, and to satisfy the World, by a publick and ingenuous Acknowledgment, relating to those Persons with whom it has been my misfortune to be concern'd; that when my Case is candidly laid down, accordingly they will censure; and that they will not pin their Faith upon the credibility of L' Estranges Writings; who though he may pass for a man of Wit, and has slipt his Neck out of the Collar, cannot boast much of his Honesty or Loyalty, notwithstanding all his fine Flourishes in his Appeal, and other Pamphlets; for certainly if any Person make it his Business and Study to pick holes in the Kings Evidence, these things are inconsistent with the Loyalty of his Sovereign, and the good of the Protestant Religion, of which with so many Oaths and solemn Imprecations, he tells us he is a zealous Professor; but now after all fearing to be severely handled by the Hands of Justice, he is fairly fled for't, which in his Appeal he calls the seeking of another World, where I shall leave him to that Beloved Repose, which he tells us he has long desired; being as weary of the World, as Peevishneses it self can be of him, where I shall leave him be; it where it will, in his so much beloved Elizium, and give you a true and impartial account of all the Transactions which have past betwixt Captain Ely, Monsieur Choquenex, &c. and my self.

About the Month of May last, my Father did remove out of the Lodgings which he had in Whitehal, into the City, and I then lodged with one Mr. King, in Shandys Street, and being out of all Employment, not knowing well how to spend my time, having formerly lodged with one Mrs. Lane, I frequently went to her House, which was to my best remembrance about June or July last, where the said Mrs. Lane did often ask me what news there was, and what was become of the Popish Plot; and she said that it was now apparent to all the World, that the Plot was contrived by the Presbyterians, that her Husband was wrongfully turned out of his Place, and that her Son Lane in the Kings Bench was Fined and Pillory'd for speaking the Truth; but she hoped to see that day, when the Truth would be found out, and that she should live to see Doctor Oates, and Mr. Bedloe hanged; for they had only been the disturbers of the Nation, instead of being the Preservers of it: with such like railing and impudent Discourse.

About the midst of June or July going about some Busyness to Westwinster Hall, I met old Mr. Lane, who desired me to go to his House, which I did, and there entring into discourse with Mrs. Lane, she told me amongst other Discourse, which I cannot well remember, that she had something to say to me, which might make my Fortune for ever, and that no Person was so fit to do what she should propose as my self; I asked her, what that was, for having been for some considerable time out of all manner of Employment; I should be very willing and ready to imbrace any honest way to get a Livelihood: Then she replied Mr. Tonge if you will draw up some Objections against the Plot, you need not fear sufficient Encouragement, for I can procure several Persons that will stand by you; and I know a particular Friend one Captain Ely, which is a Person of very great Interest at Court, who will introduce you to the speech of the King; and because you may be tender of your Fathers welfare, he being involved with Doctor Oates, and likely

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likely to be mentioned with him in your Papers; I will procure your Fathers Pardon, by the means of Captain *Ely*, for truly I did once look upon your Father, to be a very honest Man, but now I am of the contrary Opinion, since I am told he is in his Writings so bitter against the Papists; but notwithstanding I verily believe, he was meerly drawn in by Doctor *Oates*; so that your Father being innocent, it will be very easie to get his Pardon; upon which I repli'd I did not know any thing of the Plot, Mrs. *Lane* answered that having written so many things for my Father, I could not be so stupid but I could raise some Objections out of those Papers, which if I would do, she would give me what Assistance lay in her Power; after which Discourse I went to my Lodging, she having appointed me to come and see her again, as soon as I could, and then she would give me a farther Account of her Sentiments concerning that Busines.

I came not near her House a good while after, but her Husband having got knowledg of my Lodging, came to me and said, that his Wife had been several times to seek Captain *Ely*, but could not find him; but now she had found him out, and that he promised to be at her House that Evening, and desired me to go along with him, which at his importuning of me I did, and Mrs. *Lane* told me she had found out Captain *Ely*, who was very glad and willing to embrace the Offer; and had promised her to come, which *Ely* did, and calling for Drink fell into Discourse with me concerning my Condition, and how I lived; I told him my Condition was not very plentiful, and he repli'd God help you, and if I would take his Advice, I might quickly raise my Fortune; and said likewise, come Mr. *Tonge* you are an ingenious young Man, and I am perswaded you know a great deal of this Plot, I mean as to the truth of it, as for my own particular part, at first I did believe this Plot, and thought thus with my self when I heard that there was a Plot discovered to his Majesty: God has been pleased to make these Persons very Instrumental for the good of these Kingdoms; and therefore they ought to be encouraged and rewarded according to the Merit of such Services; but when I did afterward seriously consider what the Persons were which pretended to discover it; being most of them Persons of profligate Life, I was then quite of an other mind; and now I am so far from being of my former Opinion, that I do no more believe the Plot, that none being present but you and I in this Room, any one should endeavour to perswade me that there are a thousand Persons in company with us; and withal desired me according to Mrs. *Lanes* first request that I would draw up some Objections against the Plot. I told him I was Ignorant of any Transactions of the Plot, only that my Father brought Doctor *Oates* into the Council; upon which *Ely* replied that was nothing to the Purpose, all the World knew that, but if I brought any thing which might stand as an Objection against the Plot, it must be matter of Fact that must do the busines; and something of Falshood and Contrivance must be proved to have been betwixt my Father and Doctor *Oates*, and that these must be the measures I must take to overthrow the Kings Evidence, and was very importunate with me to draw up some such Papers, and told me he would meet me again at the same place the next Day.

I having some Busines at *Westminster-Hall*, at my return called at Mrs. *Lanes* House, expecting *Elys* coming; but missing of him I went away in the Evening, and having drawn up a Paper, being very much troubled in my Mind; I went to a Person whose Name I cannot remember, but was by his Profession a Tallow-Chandler, and was before the Council, the first time that I was Summoned to appear before the right Honourable Board. I read that Paper to this Person, who as soon as he had heard it, told me, Mr. *Tonge* this is a very dangerous Paper, and may prove of ill Consequence to you, and therefore as a Friend I would advise you to burn it, and whoever those Persons are who have advised you to this, they intend to ruine you, go near them no more, and I took his Advice, and burnt it, fully resolving never to concern my self any more with *Ely*, and absented my self above a fortnight from Mrs. *Lanes* House; during my absence old Mr. *Lane* and his Wife had been upon the hunt to seek me, but could not find me; but old Mr. *Lane* having been very diligent in his Enquiry, heard where I was, and went and told his Wife, who came in great hast to me, and said that Captain *Ely* had been twice at her House, and was much troubled that I did not come; that she had left him at her House; I repli'd I did not care for concerning my self with *Ely*, then said she you will never have the like Opportunity, to make your Fortune, therefore be Couragious, for you have the best man (except one) in England on your side, and was very importunate with me to write out some Objections against the Plot. I told her I had written some out already, but they were burnt! Nay said she if you falter thus at the beginning you will never do no good on't. I told her I hoped as she pretended to be my Friend, she would not desire me to act any thing against my Conscience; then she asked me if I had any Money, I told her no, says she I am but a poor Woman, yet here is a Shilling for you, and doubt not but you shall have Encouragement enough; so she made me promise her before she left me, that I would draw up that Paper again, and come after her to her House where *Ely* expect-ed me.

That

That Evening I came to Mrs. *Lanes* House, and there I found *Ely*, who said Mr. *Tonge* I am glad to see you, have you drawn up that Paper, which you promised me? I told him I had, and gave it to him; *Ely* read it over, and smiling said Mr. *Tonge* this will do very well, but you must put your name to it, which I did, and afterwards *Ely* signed it, and to my best remembrance old Mr. *Lane* and his Daughter likewise signed it, as being Witnesses; now says *Ely* you have no reason to be afraid, for you have done no more, than I do my self, and as he was going away with the Paper, told me he would see me within two or three days, but he must first go to carry that Paper to the King, who was then at *Windsore*.

Towards the end of *July*, or the beginning of *August*, comes old *Lane* to my Lodging, and told me that *Ely* had sent to his House, and told me that I must go and speak with the King, and that I must go to *Ely's* House in *Holborne*: when I came thither, *Ely* told me he had hired a Coach for himself, and me to go to *Windsore*; that I must go and speak with his Majesty, and said he had proffered a Guinny for a pair of Qares, but could not have it; I went along with him to *Windsore*, and as we were near the Town, *Ely* said now Mr. *Tonge* you are going to speak with the King, pray recollect your Memory, and say something that may give the King Satisfaction, for his Majesty believes you know a great deal concerning the Plot, and be sure remember to beg your Fathers Pardon, for I find you are very tender of his Safety; and I told him he might assure himself I should not forget to do that; so soon as we came to *Windsore*, *Ely* brought me to the *Garter* Tavern, and went immediately to find out Mr. *Chiffins*, where having had the Honour to kis the Kings Hand, his Majesty was pleased to ask me several Questions not convenient to be related, and when I came from the King, I walked for some time in the next Room with Mr. *Chiffins*: who said I did very well to discover it, if I knew any thing of the Plot, for a clear Conscience was the most excellent thing in the World; then *Ely* and my self came away together, and I askt him what Discourse he had with the King, he said it was nothing relating to my Busines; but concerning some Forrest Affairs, and he carried me from the *Castle* to the *Garter* Tavern, where after we had drunk several Bottles of Wine (for by the way you must take this Note, when *Ely* had once ingaged me in the Busines, I was seldome very sober) he told me he thought I spoke as if I was afraid; I replied, the sight of his Majesty would daunt any Person; however says he be courageous, and stick to what you have done, and let me alone to manage the Intrigue: and then began several Healths to the Duke of *Yorke*, and made me pledg him; then he told me he had given me nothing yet to encourage me, and gave me a Guinny, which he said was only an Earnest, intending shortly to make it up a much bigger Sum, before I was many days older; while we were drinking, there came in a stranger to us, who told me he heard I was upon a very good Design, that he for his part did heartily pray, that God would assist and direct me, and that there was no doubt to be made of it, but all good Catholiques, would likewise unanimously joyn with him in it, who did desire the truth of the Plot to be found out; and having drunk two or three Bottles of Wine with us, he took his leave, then *Ely* told me that Person was a *Portuguese*, and had been the Queens Cook a long time; and is a very honest man, otherwise, I would not have made him privy to our Concerns; for Secrecy is now very convenient, therefore lest I should be discovered by my own Name, he would call me always Mr. *Hudibras*; and the next day I should go with him to *London*, and when I came thither he called a Hackney Coach, and carried me to his own House in *Holborne*; and lest notice should be taken of me, he thought it would be very convenient for me to remove my self to some private Lodging near himself; to which I replied, Captain I cannot conveniently do that; for Mr. *King* with whom I Lodge is a very civil honest Man, and I have not paid him for my Diet nor Lodging; and I should be thought very rude to go away and leave him, without giving him the least notice; says he do not trouble your head for that, give me an account what you owe him, or any other Persons about the Town and I will see it paid; so I gave him an Account of several Sums of Money which I owed, and then he desired his Wife to look me out a Lodging, which she did and brought me to a Smiths Shop in *Lyon* Street near *Bloomsbury*, where I had not continued long, but my Uncle found me out, and sent his Man to speak with me, who told me that by a no less than miraculous Providence he was informed of the wicked Design I was going about, and asked me what kind of Person it was with whom I was concerned, I said he went by the name of Captain *Ely*, and was a very remarkable Person, for he had a great red Scar down his Nose, and my Uncle said he knew him, and that he was a great Rascal, and lived by cheating and sharking about the Town, and therefore not unworthily called by some Captain *Bounce*, my Uncle advised me to be ingenuous with him, and to give him a true account, whatsoever had past betwixt *Ely* and me; which I did under my own hand, and my Uncle advised me to have a care of forswearing myself, and what a grievous Sin Perjury was, that what I went about was very unnatural, being against my own Father. I said I was heartily sorry for what I had done, and was willing to discover whatever I knew, and sent

sent several Letters to him, of what had past between us from time to time ; yet *Ely* some way or other got notice, that I kept Correspondence with my Uncle, and was very jealous of me, and went to enquire what Persons came to speak with me, and the people where I lodged having informed him that several Persons had been there to inquire for me; said, Mr. *Tonge* you do very ill in thus discovering your Lodging, and if you intend that this busines shall ever come to any perfection, pray keep your self private from all manner of Company, except those who I know you may confide in, otherwise you spoyl all, for such Intrigues as these are, must be managed with a great deal of Prudence, for we have a great many Eyes over us ; and after Dinner sent me for my Linnen, which I left at my Lodging in *Shandoys Street*, and sent his Wife to pay what I owed there, and removed me in the Evening to one Mrs. *Nicholls* House in *Ollivers Ally* in the *Strand*; and came along with me, and told Mrs. *Nicholls* he would pay for my Lodging, and desired her to let me have what I wanted ; but before he went , gave me a particular charge, what ever I did to keep my self private ; but the next day going into the *Strand*, I met one Mr. *Cooper* who had formerly been my Fathers Servant, who desired me to go to drink with him, and told me he heard that I was ingaged in a busines against my Father. I said I had been with the King, and was counselled by one *Ely*, and some others to draw up some Objections against the Plot ; that *Ely* asked me what Persons did write for my Father ; and that I had mentioned his Name to *Ely*, and gave him in a list of several Persons Names besides, that did write for Doctor *Oates*, and that *Ely* was desirous to speak with him, and one Mr. *Allen* ; and told me he would be at a Wine-Celler belonging to one *Monsieur Choqueux* a Chirurgeon in the *Savoy*, and if he could see such a Person, he would willingly drink a Glass of Wine with him ; and said he was sure of one Mr. *Allen*, formerly Doctor *Oates* his Clark, and one or two more whose Names I cannot remember ; but said, one of them would not declare any thing without a Protection ; but they could swear such things against Doctor *Oates*, that it would make a mans Hair stand an end to hear it ; Mr. *Cooper* told me he would go with me to the Celler, where being very merry, and after several Healths, *Ely* askt him if his name was *Cooper*, and if he had not formerly been my Fathers Servant, and writ for him, who replied he had written several things for Doctor *Tonge*, but had nothing to say against the Plot ; says *Ely*, Mr. *Cooper* I do not desire to compel you to any thing, but my thoughts are you might do very well to joyn with Mr. *Tonge*, and recollect your Memory, what Writings have gone through your Hands, and you shall have all possible Encouragement ; and if you please I will furnish you with a very good Lodging ; and here is my very good Friend *Monsieur Choqueux* who I am confident will likewise assist you, to which Mr. *Cooper* made no reply, but excused himself that he could stay no longer, having appointed other Busines, and took his leave of them ; no sooner was he gone, but *Ely* replied, this *Cooper Simson* is a cunning Shaver, I do not like him, but I hope you have not been so imprudent as to let him know where your Lodging is ; I told him I had, and that I lookt upon Mr. *Cooper* to be a very civil honest man. Then *Ely* began to storm, after his usual rate, and said, I had no more wit than a Goose ; and it was to no purpose for him to remove me from one Lodging to an other, if I would let all the World know where I was ; and then Mr. *Choqueux* and *Ely* consulted over a Glass of Wine, what they should do with me ; and *Ely* said he thought it best to remove me to one of *Choqueux* Lodgings in the *Savoy*, and Mr. *Choqueux* promised *Ely* he would provide me a Lodging, which accordingly he did ; and that I should want for nothing : and says *Ely*, since I perceive Mr. *Tonge* is indisposed, he shall say he is here only for the good of his health ; yes says *Choqueux* that will do very well, otherwise I being a Papist may be brought into Question for enteraining him, and then they both parted, and *Choqueux* took me along with him.

The next day *Ely* sent for me to his House, and after Dinner he told me he had received 10*l.* by order from Mr. *Chiffins*, of which Sum he gave me 3*l.* 10*s.* and bid me be a good husband with it, and at the same time sent twenty Shillings to one Mrs. *Fitzgerald* to perswade her to swear against my Father ; and though he produced a Note under her Hand before the Council, that he gave her that Money only out of Charity, she being at that time very infirm, yet notwithstanding this his plausible pretence he was in hopes to have prevailed upon her, to have joyned with me, to swear against Doctor *Oates* ; this was the greatest Sum I ever had of *Ely*, which after I had received, he was still importuning me to give him more Papers ; and coming to my Lodging, he told me he had hired an excellent travelling Mare, and I must go with him again to *Windfore* ; which I consented to, and when we came within two Miles of *Windfore*, he told me, he must caill at a place in the great Park, which belonged to Mr. *May* the keeper of the Privy-Purse ; and there we were both very kindly and civilly entertained by one Mr. *Nan*, Mr. *May's* Gentleman, and after Dinner *Ely* told me he would seal up the Papers, I had given him, and would convey them to the King, and I expecting to go along with him, he said I must not, but keep myself as private as I could, for should I go to *Windfore* with him, he was afraid notice

would be taken of me; he and Mr. *Nun* returned again in the Evening, and *Ely* told me he had carefully delivered that Paper to his Majesty, and said it was the materiallest Paper I had written, and told me he must go to *London* next morning, but staid two or three Days longer, because he must kiss the Dukes Hand; then I came to Town with him again, and came to the *Savoy*, where Mr. *Choqueux* made me very welcome, and told me Mr. *Tonge* if you hold on thus resolutely, he did not question but he should live to see me a great Man, and I might assure myself I should want no Encouragement from him; for he would venture his Blood in the Cause, and for the good of the poor distressed Catholiques; who he said were the most innocent though cruelly oppressed by the Protestants, that he was confident I believed it, and that he thought I was very real in what I went about, otherwise he would not have discoursed so much of his mind to me, and then we entred into other discourse, and he askt me what News there was at *Windsor*, I told him I had not been there, for *Ely* would not suffer me to go, and took my Leave of him, and went to my Lodging.

Towards the latter end of *August*, or the beginning of *September*, I called at Mrs. *Lanes* House, says she Mr. *Tonge* I thought you might have been more civil to me. I asked her what she meant by that question, for I never knew any thing of Incivility wherewith I could be taxed, in respect to herself and her Husband, but to my Power was willing to give them my Assistance; she replied *Ely* had received 100*l.* I told her if he had, 'twas more than I knew of, for he told me he received but 10*l.* which he told me was very inconsiderable, expecting to have received a much bigger Sum, of which I received 3*l.* 10*s.* Says she, I took Captain *Ely* to be a very honest Man, otherwise you may assure your self I would not have recommended him to you; but now I find he is a cheating Rascal, yet says old *Lane*, I beat the Bush and *Ely* caught the Bird; and said, he promised him a Sum of Money, but it would be good when he could catch it, that he had been at his Lodging, but got no more of him than a Shilling; then she called her Husband old Fool, because he did not go himself to Mr. *Chiffins*; for she believed having been one of the Yeomen of the Guard, his interest was as great at Court, as *Elys*; and told me, Mr. *Tonge* if you will put your Busines into my hands, I know a good Friend of mine who is acquainted with several great Persons, that will procure you Money enougħ, but then you must leave *Ely* off, and come from your Lodging and lye at my House, where you may be as private as you desire; there being a back Dore by her House, that went into the Privy Garden. I told her I would consider on it, but said, what between *Ely* and her, I was almost at my Wits end; and heartily wisht I had never known, or been concern'd with either of them; says she never be daunted, I'll warrant you, be but ruled by me, your Busines will go very well, and told me I must go into *Arundel* Street, and inquire for Mrs. *Cellier*, for she was a Person she went to visit frequently, who had been very kind to her Son *John Lane* in the *Kings-Bench*, and had promised her to give me what Assistance she could; I went as she had directed me, and found out Mrs. *Celliers* Lodgings; she told me she did not know me, and askt me what was my Busines; so I told her that I was recommended to her by one Mrs. *Lane*, who told me she was a Person that was very fit to assist me in my Concerns; she replied Mr. *Tonge* I am very glad to see you, I am very sorry you have so little Encouragement in your Busines, I must confess I have been bit already for my Zeal in promoting the Catholick Cause, and have expended several considerable Sums of Money upon that Account; but I have a Book to print which will sufficiently vindicate my Innocency, from all the false and malicious Calumnys which are daily cast upon me; and will publish to the World the grand Villanies and Rogueries of *Oates*, and *Bedloe*, and his Crue; and shall print nothing but what I have Witness to Confirm. Then the said she would give me what Assistance she could, and told me of a great man (but named him not) that would likewise joyn with her, but what she did for me, must be very privately managed; and she thought if I met her any where, the most convenient place would be to go over the Water, and there we might consult together without any fear of Discovery; and told me when I came to her, it would be most convenient for me to come in the Evening, for fear of Discovery, for she said her Name was already brought upon the Stage of the World, and therefore though she was willing to assist me privately, yet she would not be seen to appear in countenancing my Busines, but if I had any thing to deliver to her, she would carefully convey away any Papers to the Kings or Dukes Hands. I told her I had no Papers, and then she appointed me to come and see her the next Day in the Evening, I came again to her House, but she not being within, according to her desire I left a Note with her Maid, I had been there to wait upon her; and went away to find out *Ely* in *Holborne*, who gave me more Encouragement than she did, and never went to her again.

Some few Days after Mr. *Choqueux* invited one *Crawly*, *Ely*, myself and one Mr. *Hays* with some others to a Fish Dinner, in the *Savoy*; where amongst other general Discourse, *Choqueux* told me that he would gladly have me acquainted with *Crawly*, that he was a very honest man, and

and a well-wisher to my Busines; and that he had informed him that some time since he got some Papers to be delivered in to the Duke against my Father; to which *Crawly* replied he had given in some Papers against him by one Mr. *Sherridon*, and should be very glad to renew that little Acquaintance he had formerly injoyed, when he writ for my Father, and that he was very glad to hear that I was imbarqued in the same Cause with him; that he had heard some whisperings about the Town concerning my Busines, and was very joyful that he had the Opportunity of discoursing me concerning that Affair; and said he would give me a more large Account of his Busines, and would take a more seasonable time to inform me of it, but assured me that mine had a very near Relation to his, and appointed me to meet him the next day at his Lodging, which then was at one Mrs. *Tates* Houle in Monmouth Street near St. Giles in the Fields: and I promised him I would not fail to be with him in the Evening, for I was very desirous to hear his Busines, with such like Discourse.

The next Day I went to find out Mr. *Crawly*, and there he gave me an Account of his Busines, which was to my best Remembrance to this Effect, that about two years since, (which he said he remembred very well because of the general Colds that were then in Town,) he had some Writings of my Fathers to Transcribe concerning Parliaments, and a Copy of Doctor *Oates* his Depositions, to Transcribe fairly; that Sr. *William Waller* coming there about to search for Priests, had notice of him, who was then very bad with a Cold; that Sr. *William Waller* asked him what Employment he followed, he said he studied the Law, and took down some Papers which lay on the Shelf, and looking on them said these Papers are Doctor *Tonge* hand, and he knew it very well; to which *Crawly* replied they were his Hand-Writing, and were some Overtures of his about Parliaments, and he employed him to write them out fair; that Sr. *William Waller* took those Papers away from him, and bid the said *Crawly* go along with him, but upon his the said *Crawlys* Request, telling Sr. *William Waller* he was very much indisposed by reason of his Cold; Sr. *William* suffered him to return to his Lodging, upon Promise that he would come to his House the next Day.

Moreover he told me that he went to Sr. *William Wallers* House, where he said Sr. *William Waller* was at Dinner, and my Father with him, that Sr. *William* said to my Father, Doctor *Tonge* I took some Papers away from this Gentleman last Night, which he said were your Hand, and was desirous to know whether you knew him; to which he told me my Father made Answer; That he never saw him before in his Life, and did not know that he ever gave any such Papers unto him; that then he said he took his Leave; and I asking him whether Sr. *William* did restore those Papers again to my Father; he said he was not certain whether he did or not; but had he had them in his Possession, his intent was to have given them in with his other Papers to the Duke; for he lookt upon them to be very dangerous and treasonable Papers; that he was very desirous to speak with Sr. *William Waller* concerning it, but could never since have the Opportunity to speak with him: this *Crawly* I suppose is a Papist, and is an Irish man, and would gladly have perswaded me to leave Ely, and woudl have undertaken to manage his own, and my Busines himself; for he said he had studied the Law some considerable time, and therefore could give me better Advice than Ely; who as he was informed (though he might be very Zealous for the good of the Catholiques) was wholly ignorant in the Law; he bid me consider of it, if I would put my Busines into his Hands, I told him I would consider on it, and so took my leave of him.

Mr. *Cooper* had now found out my Lodgings in the Savoy, and came often to see me, and I told him that Mr. *Choqueux*, and *Ely* were very importunate to have Mrs. *Fitzgerald* removed from her own Lodging, into one of *Choqueux* best Rooms, which he said was very well hung, and fit to entertain her, and told me if she would come thither she should want for no manner of Convenience, and have all things to her Content and Satisfaction; and proposed to have her brought in a Sedan, if she could not come by Water; Mr. *Cooper* said she was so very infirm that it was altogether impossible she could be removed as yet, without being very prejudicial to her Health; and then entring into Discourse with me about my own Busines, I told him I could not tell what *Choqueux* and *Ely* intended to do with me: but here they kept me confined to a Chamber, that I saw none but them, and that I was extraordinary weary of that Melancholy Confinement: and desiring him to stay a little, I went to call Mr. *Choqueux*: and when I returned again Mr. *Cooper* was gone, and took away two of my Papers, which were brought to the Council, one of which was read to me, but the other Doctor *Oates* told my Lord Chancellour, he could not find: the next Day I mist my Papers, and *Ely* coming to see me I told him somebody had taken some Papers from me, and I could not imagine who it should be: then says he that Rascal *Cooper* has betray'd us: I gave you sufficient Warning of him, so did Mr. *Choqueux* likewise more than once, but you would not take our Advice: therefore you

you must remove immediately out of this Room; but not well knowing whither, he went to his Friend *Monsieur Choqueux* to consult with him about it; and they presently hurried me away in great hast to one Mr. *Salisbury* near the Glass-house in the *Savoy*; where Mr. *Choqueux* bargained with Mrs. *Salisbury* to pay three Shillings a Week for my Lodging, and for my Dyet, until he could provide for me to Dine somewhere else; and *Choqueux* and *Ely* did both lay a very strict Charge on me, to keep my self very private, and never to have any more Conversation with Mr. *Cooper*, for he would certainly ruine the whole Design; and if I stirred out he would certainly find me, for he was often seen in the *Savoy*: I had not been above a Week at Mrs. *Salisbury*, but *Ely* comes to me again: and I ask't him what News there was abroad, for I lived a kind of *Anchorets* Life, and saw no body, and should be extreme Melancholly were it not for the Society I took in some pleasant Books which Mr. *Salisbury* lent me: he said there was no good News, for he was informed that Doctor *Oates* had delivered a Petition in to the Council against me and himself, for Subornation and Perjury, and Defaming the Kings Evidence; but bid me be of good Courage, for all his Huffing and Blustering could do me no harm, for he was told he found such cold Entertainment, that he believed he would not appear against me again in hast: that Doctor *Oates* was heard to say, to a Person of Honour these Words, Now my Lord if you do not stand by me, I and the Kingdome's ruin'd: and said because those Papers were all loose, and apt to be scattered and lost, which I delivered to his Majesty, he thought it would be very convenient for me to recollect my Memory, and draw all those Papers into one sheet of Paper; that being informed that my Father was very well acquainted with several Lords which were thought to be rigid Presbyterians; he bid me be sure to remember to insert some of their Names, as Contrivers of the popish Plot; for he said that several Persons about the Town did believe it to be a Presbyterian Plot, and the Papists had no hands in it, and that he had one of my Papers and would send it me; I told him I would endeavour to draw up those Papers into one Sheet, but I had no Coppies by me, which would very much help me, if I had kept any; he said Mr. *Crawly* had drawn up his Papers again at large, that there was at least two or three Sheets of Paper, which he was ready to depose upon Oath, and did intend when mine were written out, to deliver them together; that Mr. *Crawly* was a very zealous Person in my Busines, and that I might help to corroborate his Testimony, which would make his Evidence the more considerable, the more Witneses were in it, and did joyn themselves together to defend and make out the same thing; and desired me to dispatch my Paper as soon as I could; but not being very well, I did not then do it, and sent him a Letter which to my best remembrance was to this Effect, for I have not the Copy by me; That my Sentiment was I should be lookt upon as a great Rascal, and a very undutiful Person for what I had already done; that I was at present very much indisposed and could not Write. To which he returned me this short Answer, a foul Copy of one of the Papers he delivered to the King, being inclosed in the Letter, the Words of which were to this Effect.

S I R.

I Have here inclosed sent your Paper, pray use your Care and Diligence to Expedite the Matter (which dubious Words needing some Exposition being so cautiously worded, It was to Transcribe all those loose Papers into one Sheet of Paper) against Wednesday Morning, and in the Interim be Merry.

I am yours faithfully

S. Ely.

On the Thursday Morning very early comes *Ely* to me, and having written out that Paper, he took it along with him; and told me that Mr. *Crawly*, and one Mr. *Murphy* an Irish-man, and a Schoolmaster about the Town, and who had formerly been a Student at *Paris* for some time, would likewise go along with us to *Windsoe*, and taking a Sculler we landed as near to *Chearing-Cross* as we could, and the Coach not being ready, we went and stayed at a Strong-water Shop near the *Goat* Tavern; where *Ely* changed a Guinny, and there we all three took Coach, and went for *Windsoe*, and some Strangers being with us, *Ely* whispered me in the Ear, and said I was generally too talkative, and bid me have a great care I did not speak a word of any Concerns

cerns we were going about, whilst we were in the Coach; when we came to *Windsor*, *Ely* gave us a Treat at the French Ordinary, and after Dinner inquiring for a Lodging for us, we were directed to a Pewterers House near the *Garter* Tavern, where *Ely* bargained for our Lodging; and the next Day *Ely* took mine and *Crawly's* Papers, and carried them to the King or the Duke; and told me that his Majesty said that my Uncle had been with one of the Secretaries of State, and that I had given my Uncle a Recantation, and declared in that Paper, that the Papists had set me on to swear against my Father, and Doctor *Oates*, that they were the Contrivers of the Popish Plot; and *Ely* said he told the King, that he was so far from believing any such thing, that on the contrary he was so confident of my Reality; that if it were so he would give his Majesties Tooth-drawer leave to pull out all his Teeth one after another; and when he returned again, he said though it were not true, I should do very well to vindicate my self to the King from that Calumny and Asperion (as he termed it) that my Uncle had cast upon me, so he and *Crawly* drew up some Words to that purpose, and carried them to the King; which Words were That I never had given my Uncle any Recantation: After the Papers were delivered, *Crawly* went several times to the Castle to look out Mr. *Sherridon*, who as he said was a great Favourite of the Dukes, and one in whom he did very much confide; but could not as yet find him out, though he was informed he was certainly in Town, and said he would very gladly have spoken with Mr. *Sherridon*, because he faithfully had promised him upon the first delivery of his Papers into his Hands, (which was some considerable time before he heard any thing of my business) that he would safely deliver his Papers to the Dukes Hands; but could never since the delivery of them, hear any thing concerning it; and seemed to be very much troubled. *Ely* bid him not trouble his Head with Mr. *Sherridon*, for he told *Crawly* he believed he was much mistaken in him, that he was not so real in his Business as he took him to be; and that the next Day he would give him an account of his Papers from the Duke himself; and getting up very early in the Morning, he told *Crawly* at his return from the Castle, he had been with the Duke, and kiss his Hand, and askt him concerning those Papers which were given to Mr. *Sherridon*, but that his Royal Highness answered he did not remember that he had received any such Papers; and *Ely* said as soon as he came in, all the rest withdrew to the other side of the Room; and said he had above half an Hours Discourse with the Duke, but did not mention any Particulars, excepting *Crawlys* Papers, which Papers *Crawly* pretended were transcribed out of my Fathers Originals concerning Parliaments; and the two *Murphys* both Papists were to be Witnesses to those Papers; and one Mr. *Bryan*, now or very lately a Prisoner in the *Gaolhouse*, concerning the Duke of *Buckingham*, was likewise to be an Evidence, from whom (he told me) he had those Papers of my Fathers, because (*Crawly* said) being written very badly, *Brian* could not read them very well, therefore desired him to transcribe them. *Ely* whilst he was at *Windsor*, went often to speak with Mr. *Chiffins*, but he little regarded him, and said he made him wait many times an hour or two, before he could get admission to speak with him; so that wanting Money he was compel'd to pawn his Silver hilted Sword, to one of the Drawers of the *Garter* Tavern for 20*s.* and several other things, his Ring from his Finger, &c. to supply us with Money for Dyet, besides what he borrowed of the Gentle-woman where we usually dined; and said he would Pawn his Shirt from his Back, where he saw Persons so real as we were, in such an important Concern as we were about; but finding *Windsor* very chargeable, and his Money near gone, he sent a Letter to his Friend *Monsieur Choqueux* to desire him to send him three Pound, otherwise he could not get from *Windsor*, for he and his Company were pawned for it; and could not pay for his Lodging before he received it; *Choqueux* sent him three Pounds, and told me he was troubled to get it, being forced to pawn a piece of Plate; then *Murphy* seeing I suppose that *Ely* was only put off with Delays, and that there was no probability of his doing any good at *Windsor*, having some Money left, begged *Ely's* Excuse, and went to *London*, because his Schollers expected his coming, and wisht him all imaginable Succes in his Business; and promised him that his Assistance should not be wanting, in the furthering of the Business; and that when it came to the Touch-stone he should find it so. After *Crawly* and I had staid thirteen or fourteen Days, *Ely* hired a pair of Oars for us, and gave me a Crown to bear our Charges to *London*, and landing at the *Savoy* Stairs I came to Mr. *Choqueux* Lodgings; and told him what had past since our being at *Windsor*, and *Choqueux* said he very much wondered we staid so long; for he did expect us within two or three Days; and had provided a gentle Dinner for us, and several Bottles of Wine, to entertain us; I told him the Business went but very crostly at *Windsor*, that *Ely* did nothing but storm and fret since he came thither, because he found himself so slighted, and met with such perpetual Disappointments; that he had sent a huffing Letter to Mr. *Chiffins* to his Country House called *Filburys* near *Windsor* by Mr. *Murphy*, but Mr. *Chiffins* was gone ere he came, and that he thought Mr. *Chiffins* did very little regard him, that he told me he woud be at *Land-*

on the next Day; but did not come till the Court removed from *Windsor* to *Whitehal*, by reason he was very much indisposed by a Sufset with drinking too much Claret Wine, and a great Loofnes which was so violent upon him, that he could scarce sit his Horse, which was the reason that he staid longer than he intended to do.

After *Elys* return to *London*, he came to Mr. *Choquenx* Lodgings, and told me he believed my Papers were sufficient to overthrow the Evidence, but would I do the Busness thoroughly, and strike at the Root of the Plot; it must be by drawing up some Papers relating to the Death of Sr. *Edmund-bury Godfrey*, for he said none should make him believe, that those Papists which were generally believed to Murder him, had any Hand in his Blood, for he said it was much more probable that the Protestants did it, that they might be revenged upon the Roman Catholiques; and likewise added that there was a Club of Presbyterian Lords in the City, who plotted the Destruction of the establisht Monarchical Government; that the Duke of *Mormoush* went often thither, and they made use of him only to promote their own Ambitious Designs; never intending (whatever might be their Pretensions) to make him King of *England*, but they only gave him fair Words to maintain and countenance their Faction, and therefore his Health was to the Duke of *Tork*, and God dam all the Fanaticks; he said likewise that Mr. *Praunce* was a great Rascal, that he knew nothing of Sr. E. B. G. Death, but what was extorted from him by several Lords that came to see him; and says he was ready, and several others that were then in *Newgate* with him, to depose upon Oath, that he cry'd and rav'd along time like a mad Man, when he was visited by several Persons of Quality, and desired to confess the truth of that barbarous and bloody Murther; that all they could get of him, was he knew nothing, he knew nothing, he would not be guilty of innocent Blood, no Guilt, no Guilt oh King; and such strange Expressions, till through the important Sollicitations of those that came to see him, he was prevailed on to save his own Life, to confess that which according to his own Confession he knew nothing of; which is much the same Story that the Lady *Rampant*, Mrs. *Cellier* the Popish Midwife, relates in her lying Popish Legend concerning Mr. *Praunce*; likewise he said that the right Honourable the Earl of *Shafisbury* was the chief of that rebellious Fanatical Club; and told me a Story concerning a very dangerous and treasonable Paper, which was supposed to be written by a Person who was kept a long time a Prisoner in the *Tower*, because he had thoughts to make Discovery of the Popish Plot, that there was a great Sum of Money offered for any Person that could take him; for the Paper was fathered on him; but by the contents of it, it seemed to relish of Fanatick Principles, and that my Lord *Shafisbury* was by some suspected to be the Author of it; likewise he says that it was by the Lord *Shafisburys* Orders and Directions that the rest moved, he being accounted by all Persons, an excellent Statesman, and very profound Politician; and said moreover that he was informed that the Earl of *Shafisbury* was come in, and made some very great Discovery to his Majesty concerning the Designs of the Presbyterians against the Government, which if it was so he said, then adieu to the Popish Plot, for if this be true, (which I do not much doubt, having received it from such very good Hands,) this will help admirable well to back what you have written concerning some Lords, thought to be well wishers to the Presbyterian Party; upon several Discourses which we have had together upon that Subject; upon this Question of these Lords I was examined before his Majesty, and my Lord Chancellour; that what I writ concerning them was upon the Instigation of *Ely*, who said if there were any Plot, it must be a Presbyterian one, for his part he said, he thought I should do the Nation a very great piece of Service, by undeciving of them as to that particular of Sr. E. B. G. Death, by discovering what I knew of it. I told him I was so far from knowing any thing of his Death, that I was then out of Town, when the first Discourse of his Death was spread abroad; I told him there was sufficient Circumstances, and manifest Evidence to prove that the Papists were the Authors of that bloody Act; I told him I knew one Mr. *VVren* who was a Gentleman that I had seen several times with my Father, but had no acquaintance with him; that I thought did make some considerable Discovery to my Father concerning his Death, after Mr. *Bedloe* had declared his; but came in too late, and had no encouragement to make any farther Enquiry, and *Ely* asking where that Person Lodged, I told him I could not tell, having not seen him for some time: he asked me if I could no ways find out his Lodging, I told him I believed Mr. *Cooper* might direct me, and he desired me when I saw Mr. *Cooper* that I would enquire of him where his Lodging was, and I promised him I would, and so took my Leave of him.

The next morning I went to Mr. *Coopers* Lodging, and askt him if he knew where Mr. *VVren*s Lodging was, for *Ely* had a great desire to speak with him; he said he believed he could, with a little recollection of his Memory, for he said when he lived with my Father, he had been once or twice at his Lodging; then he said if he were not mistaken, he lodged in *Dwks* Street in *Covem* Garden, and having found out his Lodging, a Maid came to us, and said that Mr. *VVren* was

was gone to the Tower, and they did not expect him that Day, so we both returned to Ely, and told him we had found out Mr. Wren's Lodgings; then he askt me if I had ever seen what his Discovery was; I told him I had never read it, then Ely replied if you never saw it, it is probable Mr. Wren's discovery agrees with Beddoes, and Praunes Narrative, and that will do us no good, so that without I were certain what it was he could say, I would have nothing to do with him; so that Design was quite broke off, Ely being I suppose fearful of Mr. Wren, and therefore Mr. Cooper nor my self, never went to look after him any more,

In the Evening Mr. Choqueux came to see me, and told me he knew a very ingenious and civil Person, one Mr. L'estrangle, whom he would gladly have me acquainted with, for he was lately made a Justice of the Peace, and was very sorry he did not think of him before; for being often abroad about his Occasions, he could not keep me company, nor allist me so much as he desired; (and said) he was very much obliged to L'estrangle for mentioning his Name, in his Witty Narrative, (which he calls L'estrangle's Narrative of the Plot) for clearing and vindicating him from that lying Story of the Firebal which he kept by him, in his Chamber, reported that they were for the fyring of the City, about which he said there was such a Noise, that several Files of Souldiers were sent from the Council to guard all that long Pallage in the Savoy, from the Gate to his own Door, and were ordered to suffer none to go in and out; he then ask'd me if I knew L'estrangle, I reply'd I did not, but have heard several mention his Name; and told him if I were not mistaken he licenced Books. He told me it was the very same Person, and he would if I pleased introduce me into his Acquaintance; I told him Mr. L'estrangle had the repute about the Town of a witty Man, but I never saw him in my life; says Choqueux he was with me last Night, but did not stay long, but is excellent good Company, and of whose Society I ever was extreme desirous; I have invited him to morrow about seven or eight in the Evening to a Collation, and then you may discourse him.

According as Choqueux had told me, he brought L'estrangle with him, and there was none in the Room but my self, before their coming in, though he speaks of two young Men in his Dialogue, but Lyes are accounted small Faults with him, he can easily swallow them, and he might be pardoned for such Crimes, did he not err very grossly in very material Circumstances; as soon as Mr. Choqueux came in he told L'estrangle that my Name was Tonge, then L'estrangle said Mr. Tonge have I not seen you formerly at your Fathers Lodgings at Whitabell. I told him that to my Remembrance I never saw him there, but that I heard my Father mention his Name more than once, upon the Account of a Book which he wrote called the Royal Martyr, which he stopped and would not permit it to be Licenced; and that if I were not very mistaken (and therefore I would not be too confident in what I said) my Father informed me that he had put out several things in that Book, and said it was a very dangerous Piece, and unless he would permit him to model it according to his own Capricious Humour, he could not Licence it and thereupon my Father was much troubled at his Sawciness, and sent for his Book again; these Words in L'estranges Dialogue, L'estrangle makes Choqueux to speak, for these are his own Words, yes (says Mr. Choqueux) for refusing to Licence his Royal Martyr, which he took very ill at your Hands, of which Mr. Choqueux knew nothing of, but I shall take no farther notice of L'estranges Abusive and Lying Dialogue, for the whole Book is altogether extravagant and incoherent; and therefore not worth my while to make more Quotations out of it; therefore I shall proceed, then Mr. Choqueux Recommended me to L'estrangle, as a Person very worthy of my Acquaintance, and told him I had drawn up several Papers as Objections against the Plot; and he did presume I should be very glad of his Assistance therein; L'estrangle told me he would to his Power Assist me in what he could, and ask'd me where my Papers were, for he would gladly peruse them; for he was informed those Papers had very material Things in them against the Plot; that he was a great admirer of all such things, as he did not question he had demonstrated to the World, by his Collections he had made concerning the Popish Plot, where Doctor Oates, was pleased to be silent; and said that for his Part, he found the whole Plot was replenished with nothing else but Improbabilities, and ridiculous Absurdities; and instanced in several general Transactions of the Plot, to wit. the unlikelihood of shooting his Majesty with silver Bullets in a screw'd Gun, and L'estrangle said he would prove it by Reason, that if any one shoot off such a Gun charged with silver Bullets, the silver Bullet would not give way, but come out a Slug; and another ridiculous Story he mentioned, that if Doctor Oates went over to St. Omers, and discovered the Popish Plot, by being there conversant with the Priests and Jesuites, he said it was very strange he could not tell, when he came over for England, where he first Landed; and then Choqueux and L'estrangle fell into other Discourse concerning the late Wars; and L'estrangle told him he did intend to write Prince Rupert's Life, and askt Choqueux whether he could give him any Assistance; he said he had some Memorials relating to the late Wars.

Wars, but they were at *Paris*, so they both parted, and going out with *L'estrangle*, I asked him when I should wait upon him, and if he had any Writing, I would transcribe any thing for him which he had to Print, but he said he had no such Business, but that any Evening he should be glad to see me, and Mr. *Choqueux* at his House in *Holborne*, and went his way from us.

The next Day after Mr. *Choqueux* went to *L'estrangle* his House, and told me he was newly gone out; but he said to morrow in the Evening I should go along with him to *L'estrangle*, and *Crawly* coming to the *Savoy* before we were gon, went along with us; whom I suppose *L'estrangle* had no Acquaintance with; but *Crawly* went thinking he might have something to say to him in relation to his Papers; so soon as we came into the Room, where *L'estrangle* was, he desired Mr. *Choqueux* and *Crawly* to withdraw, for he said it look'd too much like a Consultation, who went out and expected my coming out in the Street; then being together, he asked me whether I had a Copy of that Information which was delivered to the King; I told him I had not, only some loose Papers relating to it; but I could recite several material Passages of it; then *L'estrangle* writ them down; and askt me whether I had no more to say, I told him I had not; and said when he had more Leisure, and had all my Informations he would swear me to them; I told him I did not care to be sworn to any of my Papers, for when *Ely* had often desired me I always refused it, for I was sufficiently Conscious of the great Undutifulnes, and what an imparalelled degree of Impiety it would be, if I should swear against my Father, to take away his Life; then *L'estrangle* said he did not desire to compel me to any thing, but now he was very busy, and had much Writing to dispatch, and desired me to call on him some other time; so I took my Leave of him, and he gave me as I was going, one or two of his Pamphlets, and went to find out Mr. *Choqueux* and *Crawly* who expected my coming out, but being both gon away I went to *Elys* House, and there I found them both, and *Choqueux* asked me what Mr. *L'estrangle* said to me, and how he resented my Busines. I told him I thought he approved of it very well, but said he was very busy, and took some Notes of what I said in Writing, and desired me to come some other time; and Mr. *Choqueux* said it was very well, and that things of that Nature must not be pusht on too fast, but be managed with mature Deliberation; and laid ere it was long I should wait on *L'estrangle* again; then *Crawly* replied he was the likeliest Person that *Choqueux* could have pitcht on to do my Busines, being a Person whose Parts and Ingenuity he much admired; and *Crawly* went to his Lodging in *Monmouth Street*, and I went with *Choqueux* to the *Savoy*.

About a week after or thereabouts, there was a Meeting appointed by *L'estrangle* and *Ely* at a Tavern near *Chearing-cross*, where were in the lower Room *Choqueux*, *Crawly*, the two *Murphys* and my self, and *Ely* and *L'estrangle* were above Stairs, before any of the rest came; where after we had drunk several Bottles of Wine, *Ely* came down and said that Letter which was very long, was to be fairly Transcribed that Night, and sent to the King; *L'estrangle* slipt down Stairs, and never came into the Room to us, though I was told, he did alist *Ely* to Indite it, and was with him above Stairs; then we all parted to our several Lodgings, and I went with *Choqueux* to the *Savoy*.

Not long after this, I was informed by Mr. *Choqueux*, that there had been one of the Kings Messengers, with a Warrant for him, and his Friend *Ely*, to appear before the Council; at which *Choqueux* seemed to be very much startled, and said he had been no ways concerned with me only in relation to my Health; and he did not question but I would vindicate him before the Council; I told him I could not furnishe before hand what Questions would be asked me by the Lords of the Council, but he might assure himself I would speake nothing but the Truth, let it light where it would; and in the Morning *Ely*, and *Choqueux*, with Doctor *Oates* were before the Council, where was expected I should have been, but did not come: but the next Week after I was likewise summond to appear with them; and the Day before I went I informed *Ely* and *Choqueux* that I had a Note in my Trunck, which I had from Doctor *Castle* a little before I left him, that was at Mr. *Kings* in *Shandys Street*, which I thought might do me a kindnes, and *Ely*, and *Choqueux* told me it would be very necessary that I should have it; *Ely* came the next Morning in a Hackney Coach to the *Savoy*, and shook me by the Hand, Now Mr. *Tonge* says he, you are this Day to go before the Council; and do not fear but your Busines is done, carry your self but courageously this first Brunt, and you shall have Backers enough to assit you; I wish you good Succes, and said he would meet me at the Council, at the appointed Hour between nine and ten of the Clock, but I am afraid you have not Courage enough to go manfully through with it; and I wish I were in your Case, to answer for you before the Council, in a Busines of such general good, and great Importance to the Nation; you will never have the like Opportunity again to prefer your self as is now in your Hands; therefore be sure you recollect your self very well before you go, otherwise you will be trapt in your Discourse, and you may be sure Doctor *Oates* will thunder against you sufficiently, who is exceedingly enraged against you, by what I saw

saw when Mr. Choqueux, and my self, were last before the Council; when *Ely* was gone *Choqueux* gave me a Guinny to fetch that Paper, and a Gentleman an Acquaintance of *Choqueux* went along with me in a Hackney Coach to Mr. *Kings* to fetch that Paper; and thence he carried me to *Whitehal*, and coming before the Council, having been askt several Questions by their Lordships in relation to the Plot, and three or four times Examined by my Lord Chancellour; I was committed to *Newgate* for high Misdemeanours, and indeavouring by false Accusations and Subornation of Perjury to defame the Kings Evidence, and all the prosecutions of the Popish Plot; I was first brought by one of the Kings Messengers into the Pres-Yard, and there one *Gyles* that stood in the Pillory, insinuated himself into my Acquaintance; and told me I must not be Melancholly, nor cast down, for many times the Innocent had the misfortune to suffer, but said my Busness was never the worse, though I was committed to *Newgate*; and told me if I would not be wavering, but firm and Resolute, he did not much question but he could ingage Mrs. *Cellier*, that she should stand my Friend, and procure me Money, and what else I should desire of her; whilst I was in the Pres-yard one Mrs. *Elmes* came likewise to me, and told me that now all the Eyes of the Catholicks were upon me; and requested me what ever I did not to go back, but strenuously maintain my first Papers; and said she had a considerable Estate, and I should never want, whilst she had a Farthing in the World, and by her Interest she could procure more Friends, which would relieve me if they saw me courageous for the Catholique Interest, to which I seemingly reply'd I would, so she took her leave; this Woman is a very zealous Papist, and an intimate Acquaintance of Monsieur *Choqueux*.

Whilst I was in the Pres-yard, being advis'd by one of Mr. *Choqueux* Acquaintance to write to *Ely* for some Relief, during my Confinement, and to desire him to bail me out of Prison, I did, as I had been informed his Friend *L'eſtrange* was Bail for him, and after some expectation I received this Letter from *Ely*, very cunningly and cautiously Penneſ, but the whole drift of it, (as any Person may easily perceive) was to draw me into a Snare, to write *Choqueux* such a Letter, that what he had done for me, was only for the good of my Health; and that he was no ways concerned in the Subornation to induce me to swear against my Father and Doctor *Oates*, that they were the contrivers of the Popish Plot; Mr. *Chiffins* ſent *Ely* a Letter that Mr *Choqueux* ſhould take care of me in regard of my Health; and *Ely* ſhow'd me the Letter, nevertheless *Choqueux* was continually prompting me on, and was extreme zealous for the Catholick Interest, and said he was very glad to hear of my forwardnes to vindicate them; and thought I was the only Person in England that might be a means to make the Catholique Religion Flourish in these Kingdoms; and said he cared not what he bestowed to further my Busness; *Elys* last Letter to me was in these Words.

S I R.

I Do not love to add Affliction to Affliction, and yet I cannot but wonder that you ſhould ſeek to me either for Relief or Bayl, after ſuch a Reuiſal of my good Offiſes and Civilities, both in Relation to his Maſtrey and my ſelf, you have made it ſo dangerous to have any thing to do with you, that common Discretion obliges me to keep my Distance, even againſt my inclinations to a Work of Charity; for I do pity your Condition, but to ſend you any ſort of Supply, would look as if I were afraid of you, or intended to make uſe of you, but my Integrity hath kept me out of your Power, and as to any manner of Correspondence I have done with you.

Only this I think I might ſecurely do for you, Monsieur *Choqueux* was lamenting the ill ſtate of your Health, and I moved him to take ſome care of you, that way, but his Answer was that he did not know what Construction might be made of it, but I am perſuaded that if you ſhould write to him ſuch a Letter, as might ſecure him from being miſinterpreted, by ſome acknowledgment of what he hath already done for you, and ſuch Declaratiōns under your Hand as might be an Evidence that it was at your own Inſtance, and only in Order to your Recovery, I do not know I ſay but you might prevail with him, to go on with your Cure; Consider the goodness of God to you, to give you time to repent of your Wickedneſſ, and ſet about it ſeriously, in which good Design God affiſt you through the Mercies of Christ Jesus.

Farewel,

September 25th 1680; 7 at Night.

S. E L Y.

E

After

After I had received this Letter of *Elys*, Captain *Richardson* sent for me, and said he was informed that several Persons had been to speak with me, I told him Colonel *Mansel*, and another Person had been with me, and likewise some Catholiques, and then he bid me fetch my Linnen, and removed me out of the Press-yard into the Master-side Debtors; from whence I was ordered to appear the second time before the Lords of his Majesties most honourable Privy Council; his Majesty being then likewise present; where my Affidavit which was taken upon Oath before Mr. Justice *Bridgeman* being read, and the Lords were then many of Opinion, that *Ely* was the main Person, which did intitigate me to draw up those Objections against the Popish Plot; this Account being more large than the Affidavit, not having then so much time to recollect my Memory, so fully as I have since done; and this I have performed with all due Respect to the Persons concerned, without clamorous and abusive Reflections; and with Conscience to the Truth, without wronging any Person in the Relation, and though *L'estrange* has so grossly abused me in his lying and scandalous Dialogue, yet I only plainly lay down the matter of Fact; and the several Intrigues and Discourses that past betwixt us, and as near as I could remember the very Words, and leave it freely to the Judgment of any unbiased Person, whether *L'estrange* be so innocent, or made so slight a matter of what I said to him, as he publishes in his *Cafe*, inserting in it what he pleases, and many times mentioning Persons with us, when there were none, which is but a small Fault, but he confounds the whole Series of the Discourse which I had with him; as is sufficiently evident and perspicuous to any Person that will be at so much Pains, as to compare my Account with his Dialogue; and though he may have more Wit, I am sure he has not so much Honesty in the Relation.

Since I was committed to *Newgate*, the last Term a *Habeas Corpus* was brought for me, to appear at the *Kings Bench*, where I moved my Lord Chief Justice *Scrogs*, that I might be removed to the *Kings Bench*; and upon my motion to the Judges I was committed to the Prison of the Court; And no farther saith,

Simson Tonge.

Witness.

Thomas Waller.

John Rawlins.

Francis Ramme.

Thomas Castell.

F I N I S.